

Appl. No. 09/982,345
Resp./Amtd. dated May 24, 2005
Reply to Office Action of Mar. 2, 2005

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method of return-to-owner security lockout for a portable electronic device comprising:

displaying return-to-owner information on an interface of the device when a security lockout disables the device,

wherein when the electronic device is disabled, a shutdown process switches the electronic device to an OFF state.

Claim 2 (Original): The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of displaying comprises:

comparing a security lockout bypass input to a security bypass template in the electronic device; and

disabling the electronic device when the security bypass input is invalid, wherein the security bypass input is invalid when it does not correspond to the security bypass template.

Claim 3 (Original): The method of Claim 1, wherein the security lockout disables the device if no security lockout bypass input is received when expected or when the security lockout bypass input is received but does not correspond to a security bypass template stored in the electronic device.

Claim 4 (Original): The method of Claim 2, wherein the security bypass input is compared during a start-up process of the electronic device, each time the device is switched to an ON state.

Claim 5 (Original): The method of Claim 1, wherein the disabled electronic device remains in a start-up mode indefinitely until a valid security lockout bypass enables the device.

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Claim 6 (Original): The method of Claim 4, wherein the start-up process is terminated and the electronic device is disabled by switching to an OFF state if a valid security lockout bypass input is not received after a period of time, wherein the valid security bypass input corresponds to the security template.

Claim 7 (Original): The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
enabling the electronic device when a valid security lockout bypass is received.

Claim 8 (Original): The method of Claim 7, further comprising requesting a security lockout bypass periodically while the electronic device is enabled.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The method of Claim 2, further comprising:
requesting a security lockout bypass, wherein the security lockout bypass is optionally requested one or both of each time the device is switched to an ON state and ~~is requested~~ periodically after a valid security lockout bypass enables the electronic device.

Claim 10 (Original): The method of Claim 2, wherein the security lockout bypass comprises one or more of a password, a personal identification number (PIN), a fingerprint, a retinal scan, a coded radio frequency or infrared signal, a key, and a key card, the security lockout bypass being unique to an owner or an authorized user of the device.

Claim 11 (Original): The method of Claim 2, further comprising repeating the step of comparing one or more times when the security bypass input is determined to be invalid.

Claim 12 (Original): The method of Claim 11, wherein the electronic device is disabled and the return-to-owner information is displayed each time that the security bypass input is invalid.

Claim 13 (Original): The method of Claim 1, wherein ~~when the electronic device is disabled, a shutdown process switches the electronic device to an OFF state and the return-to-owner information is displayed one or both of during the shutdown~~

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process until the electronic device is OFF and until a security lockout bypass enables the electronic device.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The method of Claim 13, wherein the return-to-owner information is displayed one of continuously, periodically, and each time that a sensor in the electronic device detects a perturbation of the electronic device.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A method of return-to-owner security lockout for a portable electronic device comprising:

receiving a lockout bypass input from a user; and

comparing the bypass input to a bypass template for the electronic device to determine whether the bypass input is valid,

wherein either when an invalid bypass input is received or when the bypass input is expected but not received, the electronic device is disabled and return-to-owner information is displayed using an interface of the disabled device, the return-to-owner information being displayed one or both of periodically after disablement and when a sensor in the electronic device detects a perturbation of the electronic device, and

wherein when a valid bypass input is received, the electronic device is enabled for use by the user.

Claim 16 (Original): The method of Claim 15, wherein the bypass input is received and compared one or both of during a start-up process of the electronic device each time the device is switched to an ON state and periodically during device operation when the valid bypass input enabled the device.

Claim 17 (Original): The method of Claim 15, further comprising repeating the steps of receiving and comparing one or more times when the bypass input is determined to be one of invalid and not received when expected.

Claim 18 (Original): The method of Claim 15, wherein when the electronic device is disabled, a shutdown process switches the electronic device to an OFF state

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after which the return-to-owner information is displayed momentarily each time a sensor in the electronic device detects a perturbation of the electronic device.

Claim 19 (Original): The method of Claim 15, wherein the return-to-owner information comprises one or more of a name for an owner, an address for the owner, a telephone number for the owner, return-to-owner instructions, a device serial number, a name for a lost and found service, an address for the lost and found service, a telephone number for the lost and found service, lost and found service return instructions, return to manufacturer instructions, return to law enforcement office instructions, and an informational message.

Claim 20 (Original): The method of Claim 19, further comprising:
providing the lost and found service.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): An electronic device having a return-to-owner security lockout comprising:

a perturbation sensor;

a memory;

a computer program stored in the memory;

a user interface; and

a controller that executes the computer program and controls the operation of the perturbation sensor, the user interface and the memory, wherein the computer program implements instructions that, when executed by the controller, display return-to-owner information on the user interface when a security lockout disables the electronic device.

Claim 22 (Original): The electronic device of Claim 21, wherein the electronic device is a digital camera that further comprises an imaging subsystem and a power subsystem, the controller further controlling the operation of the imaging subsystem and the power subsystem.

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Claim 23 (Original): The electronic device of Claim 22, wherein the power subsystem provides power to display the return-to-owner information when the camera is disabled.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): The electronic device of Claim 21, ~~further comprising a sensor that detects a perturbation of the disabled electronic device, such that each perturbation~~ wherein a perturbation of the disabled electronic device detected by the perturbation sensor causes the return-to-owner information to be displayed ~~momentarily~~ on the user interface.

Claim 25 (Original): The electronic device of Claim 21, wherein the security lockout comprises instructions that receive a lockout bypass input from a user, compare the bypass input to a bypass template for the electronic device, disable the electronic device and display return-to-owner information on the user interface either when the bypass input fails to correspond to the bypass template or no bypass input is received when expected, and enable the electronic device when the bypass input corresponds to the bypass template.

Claim 26 (Original): The electronic device of Claim 25, wherein the disabled electronic device completes a shutdown process and switches to an OFF state, the return-to-owner information being displayed one or both of during the shutdown process and while in the OFF state, and wherein the enabled electronic device one or both of completes a start-up process to become operational and continues operation.

Claim 27-29 (Cancelled).

Claim 30 (New): An electronic device having a return-to-owner security lockout comprising:

- a memory;
- a computer program stored in the memory;
- a user interface; and
- a controller that executes the computer program and controls the operation of the user interface and the memory, wherein the computer program comprises

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instruction that, when executed by the controller, implement displaying return-to-owner information on the user interface when a security lockout disables the electronic device, wherein the instructions further implement initiating a shutdown process and switching the device to an OFF state after the electronic device is disabled.

Claim 31 (New): The electronic device of Claim 30, wherein the return-to-owner information is displayed one or both of during the shutdown process and while in the OFF state.

Claim 32 (New): The electronic device of Claim 30, further comprising a sensor that detects a perturbation of the disabled electronic device, such that the perturbation causes the return-to-owner information to be displayed momentarily on the user interface.

Claim 33 (New): The electronic device of Claim 30, wherein the displayed return-to-owner information includes one or more of a name for a lost and found service, an address for the lost and found service, a telephone number for the lost and found service, lost and found service return instructions, a message that return postage is guaranteed, a message describing a monetary reward or other inducement to encourage the return of the device.